

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 220293 SENT ALL OECD CAPITALS CAIRO CARACAS  
ALGIERS TRIPOLI BAGHDAD KUWAIT JIDDA ABU DHABI TEHRAN LAGOS  
JAKARTA TEL AVIV EC BRUSSELS NATO AMMAN NOVEMBER 8 REPEATED  
RIYADH NOVEMBER 8:

QUOTE

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OECD PARIS FOR CASEY

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TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE

REF: STATE 220148

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADDRESS NOVEMBER 7 ON  
ENERGY:

THE WHITE HOUSE

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TEXT OF AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON THE ENERGY CRISIS

I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU TONIGHT ABOUT A SERIOUS ENERGY PROBLEM WE

MUST ALL FACE TOGETHER IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

AS AMERICA HAS GROWN AND PROSPERED IN RECENT YEARS, OUR ENERGY DEMANDS HAVE BEGUN TO EXCEED AVAILABLE SUPPLIES. IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE TAKEN MANY ACTIONS TO INCREASE SUPPLIES AND REDUCE CONSUMPTION. BUT EVEN WITH OUR BEST EFFORTS, WE KNEW THAT A PERIOD OF TEMPORARY SHORTAGES WAS INEVITABLE.

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS WINTER HAVE NOW BEEN SHARPLY ALTERED BY THE RECENT CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BECAUSE OF THE WAR, MOST OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN OIL PRODUCERS HAVE REDUCED OVERALL PRODUCTION AND CUT OFF THEIR SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES. BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, MORE THAN TWO MILLION BARRELS A DAY OF OIL WE EXPECTED TO IMPORT INTO THE UNITED STATES WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE.

WE MUST THEREFORE FACE UP TO THE STARK FACT THAT WE ARE HEADING TOWARD THE MOST ACUTE SHORTAGES OF ENERGY SINCE WORLD WAR II. OUR SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM THIS WINTER WILL BE AT LEAST 10 PERCENT SHORT OF OUR ANTICIPATED DEMANDS -- AND COULD FALL SHORT BY AS MUCH AS 17 PERCENT.

EVEN BEFORE WAR BROKE OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THESE PROSPECTIVE SHORTAGES WERE THE SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS AMONG MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS, GOVERNORS, MAYORS, CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES. FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS HAS EMERGED A BROAD AGREEMENT THAT WE MUST NOW SET OUT UPON A NEW COURSE FOR OUR NATION.

IN THE SHORT RUN, THIS COURSE MEANS THAT WE MUST USE LESS ENERGY -- LESS HEAT, LESS ELECTRICITY, AND LESS GASOLINE. IN THE LONG RUN, IT MEANS THAT WE MUST DEVELOP NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY WHICH GIVE US THE CAPACITY TO MEET OUR NEEDS WITHOUT RELYING UPON FOREIGN NATIONS.

THE IMMEDIATE SHORTAGE WILL AFFECT THE LIVES OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.

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IN OUR FACTORIES, OUR CARS, OUR HOMES, OUR OFFICES, WE WILL HAVE TO USE LESS FUEL THAN WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO USING. SOME SCHOOL AND FACTORY SCHEDULES MAY BE REALIGNED. SOME JET FLIGHTS WILL BE CANCELLED.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL RUN OUT OF GASOLINE OR THAT AIR TRAVEL WILL STOP OR THAT WE WILL FREEZE IN OUR HOMES OR OFFICES. THE FUEL CRISIS NEED NOT MEAN GENUINE SUFFERING FOR ANY AMERICAN. BUT IT WILL REQUIRE SOME SACRIFICE BY ALL AMERICANS.

WE MUST BE SURE THAT OUR MOST VITAL NEEDS ARE MET FIRST -- AND THAT OUR LEAST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES ARE THE FIRST TO BE CUT BACK. AND WE MUST BE SURE THAT WHILE THE FAT FROM OUR ECONOMY IS BEING

TRIMMED, THE MUSCLE IS NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGED.

TO HELP US CARRY OUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY, I AM TONIGHT ANNOUNCING THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

FIRST. I AM DIRECTING THAT INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES WHICH USE COAL - OUR MOST ABUNDANT RESOURCE -- BE PREVENTED FROM CONVERTING TO OIL IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. EFFORTS WILL ALSO BE MADE TO CONVERT POWER PLANTS FROM THE USE OF OIL TO THE USE OF COAL.

SECOND. WE ARE ALLOCATING REDUCED QUANTITIES OF FUEL FOR AIRCRAFT. THIS WILL LEAD TO A CUTBACK OF MORE THAN 10 PERCENT IN THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS AND SOME RESCHEDULING OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES.

THIRD. THERE WILL BE REDUCTIONS OF APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT IN THE SUPPLY OF HEATING OIL FOR HOMES, OFFICES, AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS. TO BE SURE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH OIL TO GO AROUND FOR THE ENTIRE WINTER, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE AND WORK IN LOWER TEMPERATURES. WE MUST ASK EVERYONE TO LOWER THE THERMOSTAT IN HIS HOME BY AT LEAST 6 DEGREES, SO THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE A NATIONAL DAYTIME AVERAGE OF 68 DEGREES. IN OFFICES, FACTORIES, AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, WE MUST ASK THAT YOU ACHIEVE THE EQUIVALENT OF A TEN DEGREE REDUCTION BY EITHER LOWERING THE THERMOSTAT OR CURTAILING WORKING HOURS.

FOURTH. I AM ORDERING ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS IN THE CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS

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TO REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSUMPTION BY 7 PERCENT. THE CUTS MUST NOW GO EVEN DEEPER AND MUST BE MADE BY EVERY AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT. I AM DIRECTING THAT THE DAYTIME TEMPERATURES IN FEDERAL OFFICES BE REDUCED IMMEDIATELY TO A LEVEL BETWEEN 65 AND 68 DEGREES. IN ADDITION, I AM ORDERING THAT ALL VEHICLES OWNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- AND THERE ARE HALF A MILLION OF THEM -- TRAVEL NO FASTER THAN 50 MILES PER HOUR EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES. THIS IS A STEP WHICH I HAVE ALSO ASKED GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY WITH REGARD TO VEHICLES UNDER THEIR AUTHORITY.

FIFTH. I AM ASKING THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TO SPEED UP THE LICENSING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR PLANTS. WE MUST SEEK TO REDUCE THE TIME REQUIRED TO BRING NUCLEAR PLANTS ON LINE FROM TEN YEARS TO SIX YEARS.

SIXTH. I AM ASKING THAT THE GOVERNORS AND MAYORS REINFORCE THESE ACTIONS BY TAKING APPROPRIATE STEPS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL. WE HAVE ALREADY LEARNED FROM THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY CAN BE SAVED BY CURBING UNNECESSARY LIGHTING AND SLIGHTLY ALTERING THE SCHOOL YEAR. I AM RECOMMENDING THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE AND ALSO SEEK WAYS TO STAGGER WORKING HOURS AND ENCOURAGE GREATER USE

OF MASS TRANSIT AND CARPOOLING. CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, I AM ALSO ASKING GOVERNORS TO TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE HIGHWAY SPEED LIMITS TO 50 MILES PER HOUR. THIS ACTION ALONE, IF ADOPTED ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS, COULD SAVE OVER 200,000 BARRELS OF OIL A DAY.

ALL OF THESE ACTIONS WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS OF ENERGY. MORE THAN THAT, MOST OF THEM ARE ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN RIGHT NOW -- WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. THE KEY TO THEIR SUCCESS LIES NOT IN WASHINGTON BUT IN EVERY HOME AND COMMUNITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IF EACH OF US JOINS IN THIS EFFORT, JOINS WITH THE SPIRIT AND DETERMINATION THAT HAVE ALWAYS GRACED THE AMERICAN CHARACTER, THEN HALF THE BATTLE WILL ALREADY BE WON.

BUT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN THESE STEPS, AS ESSENTIAL AS THEY ARE, MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS, AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE CONGRESS.

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I HAVE THEREFORE DIRECTED MY CHIEF ADVISER FOR ENERGY POLICY, GOVERNOR JOHN LOVE, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CONGRESS IN DEVELOPING AN EMERGENCY ENERGY ACT.

I MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS THIS MORNING AND I ASKED THAT THEY ACT ON THIS LEGISLATION ON A PRIORITY, URGENT BASIS. IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THIS LEGISLATION TO BE ON MY DESK FOR SIGNATURE BEFORE THE CONGRESS RECESSES IN DECEMBER. BECAUSE OF THE HARD WORK THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE ON THIS BILL BY SENATORS JACKSON AND FANNIN AND OTHERS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN MEET THAT GOAL.

THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD ENABLE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO MEET THE ENERGY EMERGENCY IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT WAYS:

FIRST, IT WOULD AUTHORIZE AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ON A YEAR-ROUND BASIS;

SECOND, IT WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO RELAX ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS ON A TEMPORARY, CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, THUS PERMITTING AN APPROPRIATE BALANCING OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS WITH OUR ENERGY REQUIREMENTS;

THIRD, IT WOULD GRANT AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SPECIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES SUCH AS RESTRICTIONS ON THE WORKING HOURS FOR SHOPPING CENTERS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

FOURTH, IT WOULD APPROVE AND FUND INCREASED EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION FROM OUR NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES. THESE RESERVES ARE RICH SOURCES OF OIL. FROM ONE OF THEM ALONE -- ELK HILLS, CALIFORNIA -- WE COULD PRODUCE MORE THAN 160,000 BARRELS A DAY WITHIN TWO MONTHS;

FIFTH, IT WOULD PROVIDE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH AUTHORITY TO  
REDUCE HIGHWAY SPEED LIMITS THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

AND FINALLY, IT WOULD EXPAND THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REG-  
REGULATORY AGENCIES TO ADJUST THE SCHEDULES OF PLANES, SHIPS,  
AND OTHER CARRIERS.

IF SHORTAGES PERSIST DESPITE ALL OF THESE ACTIONS AND DESPITE  
INEVITABLE INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF ENERGY PRODUCTS, IT MAY THEN  
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BECOME NECESSARY TO TAKE EVEN S

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